Diakon successfully celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2018. The photographs represent a number of the events held last year in celebration of this milestone. Thank you for your part in making our celebration so successful!
President/CEO Mark Pile:
Donors help to make 150th anniversary a success

LAST YEAR WAS AN EXCITING ONE for Diakon, as we celebrated our 150th anniversary.
Events took place at nearly every Diakon location, involving thousands of people in marking a century and a half of service to our neighbors. Among highlights were:
• The dedication of the refurbished Old Main building on The Lutheran Home at Topton campus, inclusive of the opening of the Helen N. Palmer Center for Permanency, created to house and support Diakon Adoption & Foster Care
• The creation of a historical video and various publications outlining our past
• Rededication ceremonies for staff members, residents and clients
• A sold-out performance by nationally recognized humorist Jeanne Robertson.
Donors and other supporters were key aspects of many of these events, helping us to recognize this amazing milestone. The anniversary gala featuring Jeanne Robertson, for example, raised more than $100,000 for program operations, thanks to ticket sales and the generous support of anniversary sponsors.
Moreover, Diakon’s Office of Development, which oversaw a $1.5 million three-year fundraising campaign concurrent with the celebration, achieved its campaign goal by the end of 2018, two years before its planned conclusion. Thank you for the role you played in that success.
A century and a half of care for our neighbors is an amazing legacy. We have successfully maintained that legacy these many years by dedication to our mission and an unwavering commitment to caring for people in need. That work, however, would not be possible without the support of so many generous donors, many of whom are recognized in this publication.
The names in this report—as well as on our website*—represent very real blessings to our ministries. Each listing underscores an individual’s or organization’s commitment to changing the lives of children, teens, families and adults of all ages. Your support, like that provided by thousands of others during the last 150 years, truly touches the lives of our hurting neighbors.
As our partner, you help to make possible care, concern and support for people who frequently have no or few other resources available to them.
Through Diakon’s annual Donor Report and our online listings*, we express joy that you partner with us in Diakon’s critical mission. However you help us—through prayers, volunteer efforts or gifts—we cherish your support, as do the clients and residents whose lives we touch, many of whom could not be served without your continuing gifts.
You truly are one of our Many Hands, guided by One Heart of love and compassion, who transform the lives of people of all ages.
Please accept my personal appreciation for your dedication and commitment during our anniversary year and in the decades to come. Thank you!

Thank you!

DIAKON’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN, “Ensuring our Future,” was a resounding success!
Our public event featuring nationally recognized humorist Jeanne Robertson raised more than $100,000 for program operations. That and the generous support of our many 2018 sponsors and donors enabled us to reach and exceed the $1.5 million goal of our 150th anniversary-related fundraising drive—and two years early!

Thank you!
Diakon celebrates its 1868 Legacy Society members

Diakon’s 1868 Legacy Society recognizes our friends whose generous gifts support Diakon’s many programs and communities through the creation of planned gifts during their lifetime or gifted through their estate.

The Legacy Society was formed as a lasting thank you to all of those who have contributed to Diakon or who have made plans to do so in the future. Membership in the Legacy Society is in perpetuity and is available to individuals who have provided for Diakon by:

- Giving to the life-income program by creating a charitable gift annuity with Diakon as a 51% remainder beneficiary.
- Establishing a charitable remainder trust or a charitable lead trust benefiting Diakon.
- Naming Diakon as a beneficiary or owner of a life insurance policy or annuity.
- Naming Diakon as a beneficiary in a will or trust agreement.

(Contingent provisions are not counted unless reciprocal wills are involved.)

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Diakon celebrates our Many Hands. One Heart. Society members

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Diakon recognizes long-time Topton donor

**DIAKON SAID GOODBYE TO A LONGTIME DONOR AND SUPPORTER LAST year when Frank Martz Henry died June 3.**

His grandparents, the Rev. J.O. Henry and Mrs. Ida Henry, were superintendent and matron of The Lutheran Home at Topton when it was a home for children. They served in those roles from 1909 to 1946. Mrs. Henry is credited with creating the Putz diorama at The Lutheran Home.

Frank Henry’s late wife, Dorothea “Dottie” Henry, served on the boards of The Lutheran Home at Topton, Lutheran Services Northeast following the late-1990s affiliation of Topton and LWS of Northeastern Pennsylvania and on an early Diakon board.

For many years, Mr. Henry served as chairman of the Martz Group, a family-owned transportation company founded in 1908 now including Gold Line, National Coach Works, First Class Coach and Martz Trailways. Additionally, he served on the board of directors and was past chairman of the American Bus Association, Gray Line Worldwide, Trailways Bus System and Geisinger Health System. He also was a former director of Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises Inc., Wachovia Bank and Glenmaura National Golf Club.

In addition to his support of Diakon, his charitable efforts included work with Wilkes University, Wyoming Seminary, The Salvation Army, Wilkes-Barre YMCA, F.M. Kirby Center and the Luzerne Foundation.

A graduate of Wyoming Seminary, he completed a post-graduate year at Lawrenceville School and later graduated with a bachelor’s degree in economics from Yale University. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.
The Buehrle Society

Diakon established The Buehrle Society in 2019 to recognize donors who make contributions to Diakon or its programs for five or more consecutive years. The society serves as a testament to the longevity of Diakon’s mission. In this spirit, The Buehrle Society recognizes consistent, loyal support of Diakon’s commitment to serve our neighbors in need. Diakon applauds these loyal donors and recognizes their continuing promise to support our services, which daily make a difference in the lives of children, youths, families and older adults. The Buehrle Society is named for the Rev. Dr. Paul L. Buehrle, former president of The Lutheran Home at Topton, Pennsylvania, who served for 20 years in that role and who directed the organization through extensive growth, acquisition and expansion.
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Diakon celebrates all 2018 corporate donors during our 150th anniversary celebration year
The Diakon Family Life Services Counseling center at 435 W. Fourth St. in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, recently received funding for much-needed improvements, thanks to a grant from the Williamsport Lycoming Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership in Pennsylvania.

The $109,500 grant will allow Diakon to consolidate Williamsport programs into the 435 W. Fourth Street site, relocating family-based services and the SPIN program, currently located in different leased space, to this building. The impact will be decreased rental expense and improved operational efficiencies. In addition, the project will allow the center to expand therapy spaces from 14 to 16, will improve security and will create separate bathroom facilities. The overall project is estimated to cost approximately $130,000.
NUMEROUS DONORS HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE DIAKON-sponsored Girls on the Run – Lehigh Valley to expand throughout Lehigh and Northampton counties, serving 1,000 girls in 2018.

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based youth-development program for girls in third through eighth grades. The program teaches life skills through interactive lessons and running games, culminating with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event. The program’s goal is to promote confidence while establishing a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.

Significant, continuing donors have included The Century Fund, Lehigh Valley Road Runners, Highmark, St. Luke’s Health Network, Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation and Women’s 5K Classic.
Advocate for Topton legacy remembered

In the fall of 2018, people attended a fundraising event in memory of Virginia “Ginny” Ebersole, a resident of The Lutheran Home at Topton who also grew up at Topton as a child in the former children’s home.

Having passed away in 2016, she was an advocate for the senior living community and also served as archivist for historical records for the orphanage.

Twining Village Oktoberfest

The 2018 Oktoberfest at Twining Village in Holland, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was one of numerous senior living events that raised needed funds to support benevolent care at those communities.

Earl and Shirley Mutter pose with Mark Pile, Diakon president/CEO. The Mutters made a gift for the kitchen in the Helen N. Palmer Center for Permanency in Old Main on The Lutheran Home at Topton campus. Named the “Earl & Shirley Mutter Family Kitchen,” the Diakon Adoption & Foster Care facility supports families and children in a comfortable environment as they dine together and get to know one another.
Bank employees aid children in need

THROUGH BB&T BANK’S LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT INITIATIVE, EMPLOYEES from the bank came to Diakon’s Helen N. Palmer Center for Permanency, located in Old Main on The Lutheran Home at Topton campus last year to help stock the center’s family kitchen and assemble personal-care bags for the children and youths served by Diakon Adoption & Foster Care. BB&T employees also donated and assembled a changing table for the center and gave a number of books and games for children. We thank BB&T for their generosity and partnership. Permanency development council member Lori Roth spearheaded the efforts.

Benevolent Care

A shared commitment to serve those with limited resources

Diakon maintains a 150-year tradition of care for people of all ages, especially those with limited financial resources. In 2018, Diakon provided more than $1.6 million a month in uncompensated care. Those funds underwrote services in the following ways:

- Diakon Senior Living Services* $ 18,594,386
- Foster Care, Adoption & Related Services $ 359,279
- Diakon Youth Services $ 257,069
- Disaster Response $ 103,820
- Diakon Youth Scholarships $ 71,045
- Community-Based Senior Services $ 45,847
- Girls on the Run – Lehigh Valley $ 540
- Total $ 19,431,986

*Consists of actual costs to operate in excess of Medical Assistance reimbursement for skilled nursing care, and benevolent care provided to those primarily in personal care (assisted living in Maryland) who have exhausted their financial resources but for whom Diakon continues to care.

Your support helps family caregivers connect with memory-challenged loved ones.

Your donation helps broken families find peace and healing.